

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the text of claims 1, 5, 7-9, 11, and 13 with the following text:

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1. (Amended) A ball mounting apparatus for mounting a plurality of balls held by a head on a workpiece, said ball mounting apparatus comprising:

- positioning mechanism for positioning said workpiece;
- ball supply device for supplying said balls;
- said head for holding said balls;
- energized force generating device for energizing said head in an upward direction;
- clamping device for clamping said head in a condition in which said energized force generating device stores an energized force; and
- moving mechanism for moving said head.

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5. (Amended) A ball mounting method for mounting a plurality of balls held by a head on a workpiece, said ball mounting method comprising the sequential steps of:

- moving a clamped head above a ball supply section;
- holding said balls on said head;
- moving said head above said workpiece;
- releasing a force clamping said head;
- mounting said balls held on said head on said workpiece;
- clamping said head; and
- moving said head above said ball supply section.

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7. (Amended) The ball mounting method according to claim 5, wherein in the step of holding said balls on said head, a total of said balls occupies about 5 to 80 % by area of a bottom area of a container.

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8. (Amended) The ball mounting method according to claim 5, wherein the step of holding said balls on said head includes holding said balls on said head for a second time after temporarily detaching the balls from the head and dispersing agglomerated balls while bringing the balls into contact with the head.

9. (Amended) The ball mounting method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

counterbalancing a weight of said head holding the balls substantially to zero;

lowering each tip of said balls to a bottom of a flux layer; and

applying flux to said balls.

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11. (Amended) The ball mounting method according to claim 5, wherein in the step of mounting said balls held on said head on said workpiece, a force clamping the head with a pressure of a cylinder to a lower positioning constituting a part of a clamping device for the head is less than or equal to about 1Kgf.

13. (Amended) The ball mounting method according to claim 5, wherein in the step of mounting a plurality of said balls held on said head on said workpiece, a weight of said head is substantially zero by counterbalancing the weight of said head by an energized force of an energized force generating device by releasing a pressure of a cylinder clamping said head.
